

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

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Forty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 22-25 April 2003

Reports of Regional Representatives

**NORTH AMERICA**  
(March 2002 - February 2003)

General Information

- Regional Representative: United States
- Alternate Regional Representative: Mexico
- Number of Parties in the Region: 3 (Canada, Mexico, United States)
- Number of Parties providing information for this Report: 3

Introduction

This Report was prepared by the United States as the Regional Representative for North America. It covers the period between the 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee, held in Geneva, Switzerland, 12-15 March 2002, and the 49<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee. At the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP11), the United States was elected to be the North American Regional Representative to the Standing Committee for the period between COP11 and COP13. All three countries in the North American Region are in close contact. All three countries also regularly coordinate with NGOs within their respective countries, in preparation for meetings and on other CITES-related issues.

The Regional Report for North America is presented in three sections in the attached Annexes, one section for each country in the Region. Annex 1 provides the National Report for the United States; Annex 2 for Canada; and Annex 3 for Mexico.

Regional Report presented in three attached annexes

- SC49 Doc. 24.5 - Annex 1: National Report for the United States
- SC49 Doc. 24.5 - Annex 2: National Report for Canada
- SC49 Doc. 24.5 - Annex 3: National Report for Mexico

**REPORT OF CITES ACTIVITIES BY THE UNITED STATES SINCE THE 46TH  
MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
- FOR PRESENTATION TO THE 49TH MEETING OF THE STANDING  
COMMITTEE -**

*Report compiled 7 March 2003*

Since the 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (March 2002), the United States has taken many active measures in its implementation of the Convention. Provided below is a summary of key measures taken during the year from March 2002 through February 2003:

**COP12 RELATED ACTIVITIES**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATES IN U.S. PREPARATIONS FOR COP12: The 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP12) was held 3-15 November 2002, in Santiago, Chile. Between 27 March 2002 and 31 October 2002, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) published four notices in the U.S. *Federal Register*, designed to allow NGOs and the public to participate in the preparations of the U.S. Government for COP12. These notices provided information on the process for attendance of observers at COP12; provided the public with an opportunity, prior to the submission deadline of 6 June 2002, to comment on species listing proposals and other agenda items that the United States was considering submitting for consideration at COP12; provided the public with an opportunity, prior to the beginning of COP12, to comment on the tentative U.S. negotiating positions on the issues on the COP12 agenda; and announced two public meetings regarding COP12.

The first public meeting was held on 17 April 2002, in Washington D.C. At this meeting the public was provided further opportunity to comment on species listing proposals and other agenda items that the United States was at that time considering submitting for COP12. The second public meeting was held on 10 September 2002, also in Washington, D.C. At this meeting the public was provided further opportunity to comment on the tentative U.S. negotiating positions on the issues on the COP12 agenda.

Additionally, at COP12 in Santiago, the United States held evening briefings for the NGOs following each day's meeting sessions to discuss what occurred in those sessions.

The USFWS also held a public meeting on 13 December 2002, in Washington, D.C., to discuss the results of COP12.

REGIONAL COORDINATION IN PREPARATION FOR COP12: The United States attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/United States Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management, which was held 23-25 April 2002, in Nuevo Vallarta, Nayarit, Mexico. At the CITES Working Table at this meeting, Canada, Mexico, and the United States began regional preparations for COP12 by discussing potential COP12 agenda issues, as well as agenda items and proposals that each country was considering submitting for COP12. The United States also attended the CITES North American Regional Meeting in Puebla, Mexico, 2-4 October 2002,

which was held specifically for regional preparations for COP12. Canada, Mexico, and the United States discussed all COP12-related issues at the meeting. There was thus extensive pre-COP12 coordination within the North American Region, and, when possible, regional positions were developed.

U.S. SUBMISSIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AT COP12: On 6 June 2002, the USFWS submitted the United States' species listing proposals, proposed resolutions, proposed decisions, discussion papers, and meeting agenda items to the CITES Secretariat for consideration at COP12, which was subsequently held 3-15 November 2002, in Santiago, Chile. The United States submitted nine species listing proposals. It also co-sponsored seven listing proposals submitted by other Party countries. In addition, the United States submitted six discussion papers for inclusion in the agenda at COP12.

U.S. APPROVES 26 OBSERVERS FOR COP12: In accordance with CITES Article XI, paragraph 7, the USFWS approved 26 national non-governmental organizations to attend COP12 as observers.

RESULTS OF COP12: COP12 was held 3-15 November 2002, in Santiago, Chile. The United States participated fully in the meeting. Of the 16 species listing proposals submitted or co-sponsored by the United States at COP12, 14 were adopted, one was rejected, and one was withdrawn. The six discussion papers submitted for consideration at COP12 resulted in the adoption by the Parties of at least eight new CITES Decisions. The Parties in North America elected the United States to continue as the North American Regional Representative on the CITES Standing Committee for the intersessional period between COP12 and COP13. The Standing Committee also re-elected the United States as its Chair, and Mr. Kenneth Stansell will continue to perform this function. In addition, the United States was elected as the alternate North American Regional Representative to the Animals Committee for the intersessional period between COP12 and COP13.

## **CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

18TH MEETING OF THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE: The United States sent a five-person delegation to the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CITES Animals Committee (AC18), which was held 8-12 April 2002, in San Jose, Costa Rica. The interagency U.S. delegation included three representatives from the USFWS and two from the National Marine Fisheries Service. Dr. Kurt Johnson, from the USFWS, represented North America at the meeting. Dr. Johnson served as North American Regional Representative to the Animals Committee throughout 2002 until his term expired at COP12 in November. Dr. Johnson continues as Alternate Regional Representative for the Animals Committee during the inter-sessional period between COP12 and COP13.

WORKSHOP ON TRADE IN FRESHWATER TURTLES AND TORTOISES: CITES Decision 11.150, adopted at COP11, directed the Secretariat to, subject to available funds, convene a technical workshop in order to establish conservation priorities and actions to achieve sustainable trade in freshwater turtles and tortoises. The United States, along with the governments of several other countries and several NGOs, provided financial support to organize the workshop. The Technical Workshop on Conservation of and Trade in Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises was held 25-28 March 2002. Participating in the workshop were the Chairman of the Animals Committee; the Animals Committee representatives from North America, Asia, Africa, and Europe; representatives from Cambodia, China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea,

Thailand, Singapore, the United States, and Viet Nam; representatives from TRAFFIC, Conservation International, Kadoorie Farm and Botanical Garden, and IUCN/SSC; and the CITES Secretariat. The U.S. delegate at the workshop was a representative of the USFWS. In addition, Kurt Johnson, from the USFWS, participated in the workshop as the North American Regional Representative on the Animals Committee.

The objectives of the workshop were to: 1) establish conservation priorities and actions to achieve sustainable use of freshwater turtles and tortoises subject to trade; 2) consider specific actions to follow up on to implement recommendations elaborated at the Workshop on Trade in Terrestrial and Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises in Asia (held in Cambodia in December 1999), particularly those related to regulation and management of trade in CITES-listed species, the future role of CITES, trade monitoring and controls, national legislation and regulations, captive breeding and ranching, conservation management and research priorities, enforcement, and capacity building; and 3) formulate findings and recommendations at the workshop for reporting to the Animals Committee prior to COP12.

During the workshop, general overviews on the trade and conservation status of freshwater turtles and tortoises in Asia, national and regional reports, and contributions from NGOs were presented. Working groups were tasked with formulating recommendations in specific actions and conservation priorities to enforcement and trade controls, management and CITES implementation, and capacity-building needs and activities. As required under Decision 11.150, the Secretariat reported the findings and recommendations of the workshop to the Animals Committee at its 18<sup>th</sup> meeting (Costa Rica, April 2002).

WORKING GROUP ON SEAHORSES AND OTHER SYNGNATHIDS: The United States continued to participate in the working group on seahorses and other syngnathids. This working group was charged with implementing Decisions 11.153 and 11.97, regarding analysis of biological and trade data on these taxa. The United States provided financial support, through the U.S. State Department voluntary contribution to the CITES Trust Fund and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), for the technical workshop on syngnathid trade held in the Philippines in May 2002. A representative of the USFWS participated in the workshop, and the United States reviewed the summary report and recommendations from that Workshop. This activity subsequently resulted in the United States' preparation and submission of a proposal to list seahorses in Appendix II of CITES. That proposal was adopted at COP 12.

SIGNIFICANT TRADE REVIEW PROCESS: The United States continued to participate actively in the ongoing Significant Trade Review (STR) process. We provided funds, through the U.S. State Department voluntary contribution to the CITES Trust Fund, for the review of five chelonian species as part of Phase IV of the STR, and continued to facilitate the ongoing review of species in Phase IV, including: final categorization and recommendations for paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*), lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*), musk deer (*Moschus* spp.), and cobra (*Naja naja*); consideration of four remaining sturgeon taxa (Atlantic sturgeon *Acipenser oxyrinchus*; white sturgeon *A. transmontanus*; Persian sturgeon *A. persicus*; and shovelnose sturgeon *Scaphirhynchus platorynchus*); and consideration of the five chelonian species for which we provided funding (South Asian box turtle *Cuora amboinensis*; yellow-marginated box turtle *C. flavomarginata*; Indochinese box turtle *C. galbinofrons*; Indian flapshell turtle *Lissemys punctata*; and flat-tailed spider tortoise *Pyxis planicauda*). At AC17 in July-August 2001, only one new species, queen conch (*Strombus*

*gigas*), was selected for review under Phase V of the STR process. The Animals Committee also decided to provide funds for the first country-based review of significant trade (for Madagascar). The North American Regional Representative reviewed the terms of reference for the contract for that project.

GUIDELINES FOR A PROCEDURE TO REGISTER AND MONITOR OPERATIONS THAT BREED APPENDIX-I ANIMAL SPECIES FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES: The United States continued to participate in the Animals Committee task of compiling a list of Appendix-I species that are critically endangered in the wild and/or known to be difficult to breed or keep in captivity, as directed to it by Decision 11.101. At AC18, the IUCN Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG) presented its report on the pilot project to compile three alternative lists of Appendix-I species that are considered difficult to keep or breed in captivity. The CSG found that these lists would not differ significantly from the list of all reptile species currently listed in Appendix I. The U.S. Scientific Authority had independently compiled three alternative lists of Appendix-I reptiles that are considered difficult to keep and/or breed in captivity, for comparison to the CSG report. At AC18, the United States participated in the working group established to discuss issues contained in the CSG report. The focus was on how to determine which Appendix-I species are “critically endangered in the wild and/or difficult to breed or keep in captivity.” Due to lack of consensus among working group members, it was agreed that further work was needed at COP12 on the resolution (Conf. 11.14) and procedures pertaining to the registration of Appendix-I breeding facilities for commercial purposes.

REVIEW OF ANIMAL TAXA IN THE APPENDICES: The United States chaired an Animals Committee working group on Review of Animal Taxa in the Appendices. The group worked on the development of guidelines for conducting reviews (including determining priorities for selecting taxa for review), and monitored progress on individual taxon reviews being conducted by other Parties or organizations. The United States prepared one review – the orange-throated whiptail lizard, a species native to the United States – and concluded that the species warranted removal from Appendix II. The United States subsequently prepared a species amendment proposal to remove the species from Appendix II, which was adopted at COP12.

CORAL WORKING GROUP: The United States was an active participant in the Animals Committee ad hoc Coral Working Group, which was working on several issues in the stony coral trade, such as characterizing exempt fossil corals and identifying taxa that cannot easily be recognized at the species level. At AC18, the United States submitted a report on coral production systems that noted a lack of agreement on marking systems to distinguish cultured from wild corals. The working group at AC18 noted little or no agreement or understanding on the proper and consistent application of CITES source codes for cultured corals, and proposed the following source codes: "w" for wild, maricultured or farmed corals; "f" for aquacultured corals; "c" for captive-bred or cultured corals; and "r" for ranched corals. The group also considered techniques and marking systems to distinguish cultured from wild-taken corals, and called for an ecosystem approach to the management of corals harvested for export. The AC18 working group also addressed: (1) use of the appropriate CITES treaty articles in making non-detriment findings; (2) recognition of coral at either the species or genus level; (3) taxonomic reference to corals; (4) identification guides; (5) distinguishing fossilized from non-fossilized corals; and (6) synergy with other initiatives and agreements.

TRADE IN BLACK SEA BOTTLENOSE DOLPHINS: The United States was asked to coordinate a small contact group of cetacean experts to analyze the trade and taxonomic status of Black Sea bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus*). The USFWS and NMFS prepared a document for consideration at AC18.

TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP: The United States remains active on the Animals Committee Transport Working Group and intends to continue in this capacity for the foreseeable future. The United States believes that the group should continue its focus on addressing the most serious causes of transport mortality, injury, and extreme stress, and welcomes an increased effort from the Parties to alleviate existing problems. The United States supports the Working Group's intention to recommend updates to the CITES Transport Guidelines for methods of animal transport other than by air.

## **CITES PLANTS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

12TH MEETING OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE: The United States sent a three-person delegation to the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CITES Plants Committee (PC12), which was held 13-17 May 2002, in Leiden, The Netherlands. The interagency U.S. delegation included two representatives from the USFWS and one from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The United States attended the meeting as an observer Party. In preparation for the meeting, the United States prepared three documents: PC12 Doc. 9.2, "Trade in seeds"; PC12 Doc. 10.1, "Artificially propagated orchid hybrids"; and PC12 Doc. 20.1, "Review on the Genus *Taxus*." The United States also made a significant contribution to PC12 Doc. 17, "Guidelines for transport of live plants," and the United States requested an agenda item to allow for brief discussion and follow-up on "Illegal trade in *Paphiopedilum* spp."

TRADE IN SEEDS: The United States has had longstanding difficulties with the interpretation of Resolution Conf. 11.11 regarding plants grown from exempt materials, particularly seeds of Appendix-II species, and does not consider such plants to meet the criteria for artificially propagated specimens contained in the resolution. The Secretariat had advised in the past that such specimens should be treated as artificially propagated. The United States presented a document at PC12 (PC12 Doc. 9.2) containing its concerns on this issue. The Plants Committee agreed that the current definition of artificially propagated specimens and treatment of plants grown from exempt materials is not dealt with adequately in the resolution, and there was general consensus that the resolution needed to be reviewed and rewritten. It was agreed that review of Resolution Conf. 11.11 would be part the Plants Committee's work plan after COP12.

ARTIFICIALLY PROPAGATED ORCHID HYBRIDS: At its 11<sup>th</sup> meeting in Langkawi, Malaysia (PC11), the Plants Committee had asked the United States and the American Orchid Society to draft a proposal for exempting artificially propagated hybrids of six orchid genera from CITES controls. The United States submitted a draft proposal at PC12 (PC12 Doc. 10.1), which had been developed in cooperation with the American Orchid Society. The proposal provided extensive background on the history of hybridizing of orchids and demonstrated that in excess of 95% of orchids in trade are artificially propagated. A vast majority of artificially propagated specimens are hybrids of the genera covered by the proposal (*Cattleya*, *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium*, *Oncidium*, *Phalaenopsis*, and *Vanda*). The proposal was based on the concept that CITES allows for the differential treatment of hybrids relative to species, and the Parties have agreed that taxa traded largely as artificially propagated

specimens should not be included in the Appendices. The Plants Committee endorsed the proposal as a way of removing from the Appendices a large portion of the trade in orchids that was not relevant to the conservation of species in the wild. The Committee asked the United States to finalize the proposal and present it for consideration at COP12. The proposal was submitted for COP12, but was amended at the COP to cover only *Phalaenopsis* spp.; the proposal was adopted as an annotation to the listing for Orchidaceae, to exclude from CITES permitting requirements shipments of at least 100 plants per container of a single hybrid grex.

REVIEW ON THE GENUS TAXUS: The United States had consulted extensively with range countries of *Taxus* spp. to determine the status and management of wild populations and the potential need or support for a listing of additional species in the Appendices. In addition, the United States had evaluated, based on range country input, whether the current listing of *Taxus wallichiana* in Appendix II is effective, since the traded commodity, the extract, is exempt from the listing. At PC12, it was agreed that the annotation to exempt the extract of *T. wallichiana* should be removed, and that additional species from the Indo-Chinese region should be listed, but not species from the Western Hemisphere or other regions (e.g., Europe). The Plants Committee recommended that the United States consider preparing a proposal for COP12. The United States was unable to prepare a proposal and advised China and India that no proposal would be forthcoming. However, the United States will consult with these and other range countries about a possible proposal for COP13.

ILLEGAL TRADE IN PAPHIOPEDILUM SPP.: At PC11, the United States had submitted a document (PC11 Doc. 24.4) to raise awareness of the threat of illegal trade to the continued survival of species in the genus *Paphiopedilum*. The document contained background on recently discovered species, evidence of over-collection and extirpation of species, and the need for action to address this trade. The document also considered a number of recommendations that were endorsed by the Plants Committee. At PC12, the United States asked for time on the agenda to discuss this issue further, to determine if any action had been taken by the Secretariat or individual Parties, and to report on activities in the United States relative to these species.

GUIDELINES FOR TRANSPORT OF LIVE PLANTS: The Vice Chairman of the Plants Committee, Dr. Bertrand Von Arx (also North American Regional Representative), had coordinated a review of problems with transport of live plants to identify ways in which the Parties could improve the survival of plants in trade. The United States, particularly USDA/APHIS, provided significant input to this effort, which resulted in a number of recommendations to the Parties for expediting shipments and preventing losses due to inadequate documentation or other difficulties.

## **ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE CITES LISTING CRITERIA**

REVIEW OF THE LISTING CRITERIA: Following the 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee in March 2002, no further action was taken on the CITES listing criteria (i.e., review and revision of Resolution Conf. 9.24) until COP12. At COP12, the Parties agreed that sufficient progress had not been made to take any final decision on revisions to Conf. 9.24. The United States was a member of a working group established at COP12 to develop terms of reference for continuing the review of the criteria through COP13.

## **CITES TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE**

UNITED STATES PROVIDES CITES TRAINING IN CHINA: A four-person USFWS team consisting of two representatives from International Affairs and a special agent and wildlife inspector from the Office of Law Enforcement traveled to China in June 2002. The team presented a seminar on wildlife import/export policies and procedures for trade monitoring and smuggling investigations. The U.S. delegation also had an opportunity to observe CITES enforcement efforts at Chinese ports of entry.

ANTI-POACHING TRAINING SUPPORTS PROTECTION OF CITES SPECIES: USFWS special agents supported anti-poaching training programs in nations where illegal take of wildlife continues to feed the illegal wildlife trade. USFWS Law Enforcement provided instructors for ongoing enforcement training programs sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development in Tanzania and the Galapagos Islands Marine Reserve. The USFWS also teamed with the U.S. National Park Service to conduct a resource protection training program at Kruger National Park in South Africa in June 2002. The course, which was attended by 28 law enforcement officers from South African national and provincial parks and the Endangered Species Unit of the South African national police, covered team tactics, undercover operations, and surveillance techniques.

UNITED STATES CONDUCTS CITES TRAINING WORKSHOP IN KAZAKHSTAN: The USFWS agreed to conduct a workshop in Kazakhstan, with funding from the U.S. Department of State, to provide participants from the governments of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan with training on the implementation of CITES by Management and Scientific Authorities, and on wildlife investigation and inspection techniques by Law Enforcement. By conducting such training workshops, the U.S. Government helps to insure that the participating CITES Parties have the skills and abilities necessary to properly implement the CITES treaty. This clearly benefits both the participating countries and the United States.

The workshop was held 22-26 July 2002, in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The USFWS sent six representatives to conduct the workshop. A representative from the U.S. Department of State and the Head of Capacity Building for the CITES Secretariat were also part of the team of trainers. Forty-six participants attended the workshop: 43 from Kazakhstan and three from Uzbekistan. The participants included representatives from the CITES Management Authority, Scientific Authority, and Customs, as well as representatives of the Kazakhstan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

TRAINING TARGETS WILDLIFE PROTECTION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: In September 2002, USFWS special agents and a senior scientist from the USFWS's National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory conducted a two-week training course for African law enforcement officers at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Gaborone, Botswana. Thirty officers from Botswana, Tanzania, Zambia, Namibia, and South Africa (whose jobs ranged from covert operative to Customs inspector) completed the Wildlife Investigators Course. The USFWS-developed course, which has now been added to the core curriculum at the Botswana training center, covered endangered species laws and CITES, as well as investigative techniques and procedures. The program was the first course of its kind presented by the ILEA network, which also operates training facilities in Thailand, Costa Rica, and Hungary. This new partnership promises an effective mechanism for delivering wildlife law enforcement training in Africa and possibly other global regions as well.

U.S. OFFICERS PARTICIPATE IN ENFORCEMENT FORUMS IN BRAZIL: Senior USFWS

enforcement officers participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> South American Conference about the Illegal Trade of Wild Fauna, which was held in Brasilia the week of December 2, 2002. The conference, which was organized by REDESUL (the South American Network for Combating the Illegal Trade of Wild Fauna) and sponsored by the Brazilian Federal Police, Interpol, and the U.S. and British Embassies, attracted more than 60 attendees from enforcement agencies and non-profit wildlife conservation groups. USFWS agents presented briefings on models of action for combating wildlife crime, CITES enforcement, and wildlife protection legislation. While in Brazil, USFWS officers also met with the State Attorney General and State Prosecutor and Environmental Affairs Advisor in Sao Paulo and participated in a seminar on combating wildlife trafficking. More than 40 representatives from local, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies attended this meeting, which focused on U.S. and Brazilian efforts to protect wildlife.

USFWS ADDRESSES ENFORCEMENT ISSUES AT NORTH AMERICAN WORKSHOP: In January 2003, USFWS Law Enforcement officials participated in a transboundary law enforcement workshop sponsored by the Commission on Environmental Cooperation (a U.S./Canada/Mexico natural resource protection partnership). The workshop, which was held in Washington, D.C., looked at such issues as mutual legal assistance in criminal and civil matters, exchange of investigative data, and national and trilateral enforcement priorities. The program included a USFWS presentation on U.S. priority areas for wildlife law enforcement.

WORKSHOP TARGETS PLANT PROTECTION: USFWS Law Enforcement staff coordinated U.S. participation in a North American plant protection workshop sponsored by the North American Wildlife Enforcement Group. The workshop, which was held in Xalapa, Mexico, in February 2003, reviewed international and national protections for plants and focused on helping the U.S., Mexican, and Canadian officers in attendance improve their plant identification skills for species of global and regional concern. The U.S. delegation included inspectors from APHIS (which enforces CITES permit requirements for plants at U.S. ports of entry) and USFWS special agents, who investigate plant smuggling and violations of both U.S. and CITES protections for endangered plants.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

***STRENGTHENING U.S. CITES ENFORCEMENT CAPACITY:*** During the reporting period, the USFWS Office of Law Enforcement worked to maintain and improve its CITES enforcement infrastructure and core investigative and inspection capabilities. Accomplishments in these areas appear below.

USFWS RESTORES INVESTIGATIVE STAFFING: The USFWS continued efforts to rebuild its wildlife investigative capability, which had eroded in the late 1990s as a result of flatline budgets and increased operating costs. Thirty-five new special agents hired in July 2001 to fill longstanding vacancies in the agency's criminal investigator ranks completed classroom training in March 2002 and reported to their first duty stations. In September 2002, another 25 new agents were hired to fill some of the program's remaining vacancies. These agents will complete basic training and report for field work in March 2003.

WILDLIFE INSPECTION NET EXPANDS: The USFWS expanded its wildlife inspection capabilities during the reporting period. In March 2002, the agency began operating Anchorage, Alaska, as a designated port with additional staff to inspect and clear CITES shipments.

Inspection services were re-established in San Juan, Puerto Rico; staff was added at Detroit, Michigan, where a new international terminal has increased the number of international passenger flights; and the USFWS stationed an inspector at the border port of Champlain, New York.

INTERAGENCY TRAINING PROMISES IMPROVED CITES ENFORCEMENT: USFWS Law Enforcement already trains more than 1,000 new U.S. Customs inspectors each year in wildlife trade enforcement, providing the framework for a wide-reaching enforcement partnership that helps uphold the CITES treaty at U.S. ports of entry. In January 2003, the USFWS began providing a basic wildlife import/export enforcement course for new U.S. Department of Agriculture inspectors and Immigration and Naturalization Service inspectors and agents. The course includes an overview of CITES and U.S. wildlife laws relating to import and export, and provides hands-on exercises working with seized items, such as caviar, spotted cat products, and elephant ivory. USFWS wildlife inspectors in the field also regularly provide “cross training” to other U.S. law enforcement officers stationed at international airports, ocean ports, and border crossings.

TRADE MONITORING ENHANCEMENTS UNDERWAY: During 2002, the USFWS completed development and pilot testing of “eDecs” – a new Internet-based system for declaring wildlife imports and exports. The system, which will be available for use by all importers and exporters at all USFWS-staffed ports as of March 1, 2003, promises to speed shipment declaration and clearance, facilitate communication between the import/export community and USFWS enforcement staff, and promote compliance with CITES and U.S. wildlife laws.

FORENSICS LABORATORY EXPANDS ANALYTIC CAPABILITIES: In September 2002, the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory was re-accredited by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors – a hard-to-achieve professional standing that requires meeting 125 demanding standards for laboratory operations. During the reporting period, USFWS, State, and international investigators enforcing the CITES treaty had access to new lab capabilities in the areas of computer and video forensics. Lab scientists developed new techniques for determining the geographic source of bear species and identifying species based on hemoglobin analysis. They also began using laser scanning technologies to build a collection of digital reference standards for morphological identification of bones, skulls, and other animal parts.

NEW INTELLIGENCE UNIT TO SUPPORT U.S. CITES ENFORCEMENT: USFWS Law Enforcement has undertaken efforts to improve intelligence gathering and analysis – capabilities that have become increasingly important given the global scope and growing sophistication and organization of wildlife crime. In 2002, the USFWS established and staffed an intelligence unit to support the investigation of wildlife trafficking and other crimes. Initial efforts focused on building national and international agency contacts to aid in the development of wildlife trade intelligence information. Staff also explored the application of a variety of analytical tools and developed a pilot computer database program to facilitate the collection, storage, and analysis of wildlife trade information.

***INSPECTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS:*** The enforcement of CITES and the interception of illegal wildlife trade remained a mission priority for USFWS Law Enforcement. USFWS wildlife inspectors monitored U.S. wildlife trade for CITES compliance and intercepted illegal shipments of

CITES-protected species. USFWS special agents conducted criminal investigations of individuals and companies attempting to exploit protected wildlife resources.

MONITORING WILDLIFE TRADE: The USFWS's wildlife inspection program remained the Nation's front-line defense against illegal wildlife trafficking. USFWS wildlife inspectors stationed at 32 ports and border crossings process more than 116,000 wildlife shipments a year. Selected program accomplishments for the reporting period include:

- Inspectors in Boston intercepted a shipment containing \$1.4 million worth of illegally imported caviar, the largest seizure ever of this type at that location.
- Significant commercial quantities of caviar were seized at the ports of New York, Miami, Houston, Los Angeles, and Chicago; inspectors in the latter city apprehended 20 airline employees smuggling caviar into the United States.
- A high-fashion jewelry and accessory retail company in New York paid \$43,000 in civil penalties for CITES violations tied to eight shipments that included products made from lizard, alligator, coral, and vicuna.
- Multiple U.S. retailers dealing in imported reptilian leather goods paid fines for CITES violations ranging from \$3,000 to \$11,000 as a result of USFWS inspection efforts at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.
- A Florida woman who was caught returning from Peru with four endangered ocelot skins, additional ocelot parts, and a primate skull was sentenced in July 2002 to six months monitored home confinement and two years probation.
- Inspectors working out of Tampa, Florida, pursued cases involving the unlawful importation of CITES-listed butterflies from Peru and seized a large collection of Solomon Island butterflies exported from Denmark in violation of CITES.
- A six-month enforcement blitz at the international airport in Houston resulted in the apprehension of 13 individuals smuggling sea turtle eggs into the United States.
- An outfitter who used a fraudulent CITES permit to "cover" a shipment of sport-hunted trophies that came into Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas, from the Cameroon was fined \$7,000.
- CITES enforcement efforts along the U.S./Mexico border in Arizona and Texas resulted in the interception of multiple desert bighorn sheep trophies and commercial shipments of reptilian leather goods imported without CITES permits.
- Smuggling attempts foiled in San Francisco included the interception of a mail parcel from China containing \$15,000 worth of bear bile hidden in cigarette packs.
- Inspectors in Los Angeles seized a shipment containing 447 live chameleons and day geckos exported from Madagascar with illegal CITES permits; the reptiles had an estimated "street value" of more than \$83,000.
- A man traveling from Indonesia was caught bringing two king birds-of-paradise (which died in transit), two lesser birds of paradise, two pygmy lorises, and 50 glass bottles containing orchid seedlings into the United States via Los Angeles; he pleaded guilty to smuggling and was sentenced to six months in prison and a \$25,000 fine.
- A woman was caught crossing the U.S./Mexico border in San Diego, California, with 30 live Amazon parrots hidden in the hollowed out rear seat of her vehicle.
- Inspectors in Portland, Oregon, intercepted a shipment of 985 pounds of white sturgeon that was being exported to Canada without the required CITES permit.
- An individual who was caught crossing the U.S./Canada border in Blaine, Washington, with four CITES Appendix I Madagascar radiated tortoises was arrested after USFWS inspectors determined that he was already wanted for wildlife smuggling. He pleaded

- guilty to charges related to the illegal importation of 80 Asian arowanas and was sent to prison for one year.
- Inspectors in Anchorage, Alaska, intercepted a commercial shipment containing 35 elephant carvings invoiced as stone carvings and figurines from China and seized a shipment of pool cues from Japan after determining that many were made from elephant ivory.

CAVIAR COMPANY PRESIDENT SENTENCED: A USFWS investigation of illegal caviar trade sent the president of a Miami caviar company to prison for 41 months for his role in organizing and running a large-scale roe trafficking network. The man, who pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy, smuggling, and money laundering, spearheaded a “suitcase” smuggling operation that unlawfully took more beluga caviar out of Russia in one year alone than the country’s entire export quota. Paid couriers picked up suitcases pre-packed with black market roe in Europe for delivery in Miami; false labels were also used to “disguise” illegally imported caviar as roe from Atlantic lumpfish, an unprotected species. In addition to the prison sentence, the defendant also forfeited \$36,000 and \$860,000 worth of caviar.

SUITCASE SMUGGLER SENT TO PRISON: A Russian citizen was sentenced to 30 months in prison for smuggling 98.2 pounds of sturgeon caviar into the United States in violation of CITES; he was also convicted for making false statements. The defendant and two other Russian nationals arrived in Miami, Florida, from Moscow in August 2001 and submitted false Customs declarations stating they were not importing wildlife products. A canine detection team discovered 37 tins of caviar, valued at between \$40,000 and \$80,000, concealed in their luggage. The two other defendants served six and seven-month prison terms for their role in the smuggling attempt.

COMPANY OWNER PLEADS GUILTY TO WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING: The owner of a major New York caviar company investigated by the USFWS pleaded guilty to six counts of violating the Lacey Act in connection with illegal trafficking in Russian and American caviar. The plea agreement calls for penalties that include a prison sentence of 15 to 21 months, a \$400,000 fine, revocation of the company’s wildlife import/export license, and abandonment of over 1,000 kilograms of caviar seized for various violations since 1999.

FLORIDA MAN CAUGHT WITH CONTRABAND ROE: USFWS officers at Miami International Airport apprehended a Florida resident who tried to smuggle 110 pounds of Russian caviar into the United States when he returned to the country on a flight from Frankfurt, Germany. The subject was sentenced to 13 months in prison and two years of supervised release.

BUSINESS OWNER ARRESTED IN NEW YORK CAVIAR CASE: USFWS special agents in New York City arrested the owner of a caviar company based in that city for running a caviar “suitcase smuggling” operation and violating the CITES treaty. The man, who was out on bond after being arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the fall of 2002 for securities and wire fraud, had been scheduled to plead guilty to charges in the USFWS investigation in March 2001, but he and his attorney disappeared and could not be contacted.

IVORY SMUGGLERS SENT TO PRISON: Two individuals arrested for running one of the largest elephant ivory smuggling rings ever on the U.S. West Coast were found guilty and

sentenced to prison terms of one year and six months. The smuggling operation was uncovered when USFWS and U.S. Customs officers intercepted two shipments containing approximately 250 pounds of raw and worked ivory. The shipments, which were imported from Nigeria via Los Angeles International Airport, had been declared as handicrafts and furniture. Ivory pieces were concealed in beaded cloth and whole tusks were found inside pieces of furniture. Charges in the case included smuggling and conspiracy.

FINES, RESTITUTION ASSESSED IN IVORY/SEA TURTLE SMUGGLING CASE: In San Francisco, the subjects of a USFWS investigation that documented the smuggling of two mounted green sea turtles and 119 ivory carvings valued at over \$100,000 were sentenced to pay \$190,000 in fines and \$99,000 in restitution. The three, who imported some of the contraband goods concealed in a shipment of furniture and ceramic vases that originated in China, pleaded guilty to felony smuggling and Lacey Act violations. The restitution money will support conservation work by two California-based organizations, the Sea Turtle Restoration Project and Wildlife Care.

WOMAN SENTENCED FOR SMUGGLING SEA TURTLE EGGS: In November 2002, a Federal judge sentenced the last member of a family-run smuggling syndicate that illegally brought thousands of sea turtle eggs into the United States from El Salvador. The woman, who was caught smuggling 2,880 Olive Ridley sea turtle eggs into Houston, Texas, in April 2000, will spend six months in prison followed by three years probation. In August 2000, her sister was also arrested in Houston and was charged with smuggling 1,524 eggs and 5,000 units of illegal prescription drugs. USFWS investigators had previously apprehended two other members of the same family, who were smuggling sea turtle eggs into the country via Los Angeles.

USFWS BREAKS UP REPTILE SMUGGLING RING: A two-year investigation conducted by USFWS Law Enforcement in conjunction with the Australian Customs Service resulted in the elimination of a syndicate involved in the smuggling of high value reptiles from Australia and Mexico. The reptiles were brought into the United States by various methods, including use of a private plane with hidden compartments and express mail shipments. A leader of the syndicate was indicted and convicted in San Francisco, California.

U.S. COMPANY CHARGED IN PRIMATE CASE: A Federal grand jury in Chicago returned a 12-count indictment against a U.S. primate research facility and three current and former officers in connection with the unlawful 1997 importation of live monkeys from Indonesia. The indictment alleges that the company, which breeds and sells monkeys for medical research, unlawfully imported wild-caught macaques and used false documents to describe the animals as captive bred. The indictment also includes charges for inhumane transport violations, since the importations included nursing mothers and unweaned young. The airline that shipped the monkeys has already paid a \$10,000 fine for violating humane transport regulations. Prosecution of the research facility and its officers is pending.

TWO INDICTED FOR IMPORTING RARE FISH: The owner of a tropical fish business in Edmonton, Canada, and a California man were indicted in Portland, Oregon, for illegally importing Asian arowanas, an endangered CITES Appendix-I fish native to Malaysia and Indonesia. The pair are charged with conspiring to import and sell the protected fish, illegally transporting them into the United States in violation of the Endangered Species Act, and

falsifying documents to move the fish through U.S. Customs. They both face one count of wire fraud for using the Internet to conduct illegal activities. In addition, the U.S. defendant has also been charged with making false statements to law enforcement officers. Each charge carries a maximum penalty of \$250,000 and five years imprisonment. The smuggling operation was first detected when a USFWS wildlife inspector in Portland intercepted a shipment of Asian arowanas that had been falsely invoiced as cichlids (a non-protected tropical fish).

BIRD SMUGGLER SENTENCED: A Miami resident caught bringing 40 Appendix II Cuban finches into the United States was sentenced to three months home confinement and two years probation. He must also perform 100 hours of community service and was barred from importing or exporting wildlife. The man, who was arrested in Miami, entered the United States from Cuba with \$4,000 worth of birds strapped to his legs and hidden under his pants.

AGRICULTURE INSPECTOR CHARGED WITH ILLEGALLY IMPORTING BIRDS: A U.S. Department of Agriculture inspector working at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York was charged with illegally importing six African grey parrots into the United States. The individual obtained the birds from relatives in Nigeria and had them shipped to the United States without the proper permits. The inspector previously imported nine finches in 1998, also without permits. He has been charged with violating the Lacey Act and making false statements.

RARE BIRD RETURNED TO BRAZIL: On December 22, 2002, the USFWS returned an extremely rare Spix's macaw to Brazil. The bird, an Appendix-I species which was probably smuggled into the United States years ago, was transferred to USFWS Law Enforcement for repatriation by an individual in Colorado who had apparently kept it as a pet for a number of years. Native only to a tiny area in northern Brazil, the Spix's macaw is now believed to be extinct in the wild and is extremely rare in captivity. The bird returned by the USFWS will become part of an official captive breeding project in Brazil, where scientists are working to reestablish the species in the wild.

FLORIDA MAN ARRESTED FOR FEATHER TRAFFICKING: The owner of a business specializing in rain forest and tribal arts and crafts faces Federal charges for smuggling protected bird feathers and animal parts from Brazil's Amazon rain forest region into the United States. The subject was arrested after a three-year USFWS investigation revealed that he was trafficking in feathers and parts of CITES species. Contraband in the case included jaguar teeth and feathers from blue and yellow macaws, red and green macaws, scarlet macaws, and great egrets. The investigation was coordinated with the Brazilian Federal Police's wildlife protection unit.

CALIFORNIA IMPORTER INVESTIGATED FOR MEDICINAL TRAFFICKING: In August 2002, a businessman in Oakland, California, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to violate the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act, Endangered Species Act/CITES, and other Federal regulations. A joint investigation by the USFWS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Food and Drug Administration revealed that the man, an importer of Chinese traditional medicines and herbs, had imported hundreds of patented medicines labeled to contain rhino and tiger, raw herbs without CITES permits, herbs that were subject to quarantine, and patented medicines that contained drugs controlled by U.S. laws. The subject had been convicted for similar violations in 1996 and was still on probation when a search warrant was served at his retail store and warehouse in October 2001. He faces a maximum prison sentence of five years and a maximum

fine of \$250,000.

DOMESTIC BIG CAT TRAFFICKING CASE YIELDS FUNDS FOR TIGER

CONSERVATION: Defendants in a USFWS investigation of big cat trafficking have paid more than \$100,000 in restitution to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's "Save the Tiger Fund." The multi-year USFWS probe exposed the widespread sale and killing of captive-bred tigers and leopards for the lucrative animal parts trade. Charges were brought against 16 individuals and a Chicago exotic meat company. The restitution payments from the nine defendants sentenced to date will be used to support anti-poaching and anti-trafficking efforts aimed at protecting wild tigers in Thailand and the Russian Far East. Planned activities include ranger training, resolution of human-tiger conflicts, and public education.

INTERNATIONAL CYCAD SMUGGLERS CONVICTED: A USFWS undercover investigation confirmed that the earth's rare plant species are indeed being plundered in large numbers for the global black market trade. The smuggling exposed by the USFWS, which focused primarily on CITES Appendix I species, virtually spanned the globe, involving cycads and orchids from more than 20 different countries and profiteers on four continents. Some of the plundered cycad specimens were plants approaching 100 years old; many came from government-protected lands off limits to collectors. During 2002, three South Africans and one Australian arrested as a result of this investigation were convicted of various felony counts in U.S. courts. Another subject located in Southern California who received many of the illegal cycads pleaded guilty to violating the Endangered Species Act. The USFWS also assisted the governments of South Africa, Australia, and Zimbabwe in their prosecution of subjects identified as participants in the illegal trade of Appendix I cycads.

ORCHID TRAFFICKER FOILED: A USFWS investigation of the illegal take, transportation, and sale of protected orchids concluded in U.S. District Court in Hawaii when the subject pleaded guilty to multiple violations. The orchids, a species listed on CITES Appendix I, were harvested illegally in Borneo and then transported through Honolulu, Hawaii, for sale on the U.S. mainland. Sentencing is scheduled for March 2003.

BRAZILIAN APPENDIX-III BIGLEAF MAHOGANY HELD AT U.S. PORTS: Since February 2002, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the agency responsible for inspecting and clearing CITES plant shipments into and out of the United States, has held a total of 50 shipments of Brazilian bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) at U.S. designated ports of entry due to questions about the validity of the accompanying Brazilian export permits and the legality of the mahogany. These shipments totaled 8,958.065 cubic meters of wood. The holds began following a meeting in January 2002 in Washington, D.C., between officials of the USFWS and IBAMA, the Brazilian CITES Management Authority. At that time IBAMA told the USFWS about Brazil's Regulatory Order No. 17, effective October 22, 2001, that suspended logging, transport, and trade of bigleaf mahogany, imposed due to legality concerns. IBAMA also informed the USFWS that Brazilian courts had granted injunctions to several Brazilian timber exporters against the export prohibition. This forced IBAMA to issue permits to those companies. IBAMA asked the United States to help stem the illegal trade in this species as they appealed the injunctions. In response to this and the fact that many of the CITES export permits accompanying shipments of bigleaf mahogany from Brazil were not completely endorsed by Brazilian inspection officials, APHIS

began to hold Brazilian mahogany shipments in February 2002. Such shipments were only released when the CITES Management Authority of Brazil confirmed that the permits were valid and the mahogany was legally acquired.

For each of the 50 shipments, the USFWS, the U.S. CITES Management Authority, communicated with IBAMA to verify the accompanying CITES permits' validity and the legality of the mahogany. After numerous communications with IBAMA over the past year, and after a study conducted by IBAMA to determine the legal origin of mahogany in shipments that have been exported from Brazil during 2002, the U.S. Government received information from IBAMA verifying the legality of the mahogany and the validity of the accompanying permits for 37 full shipments and 2 partial shipments from the original total of 50. These shipments, totaling 5,881.337 cubic meters of wood, have been released.

Also, the United States sent a delegation to Brazil during the first week of October 2002, to gather information from IBAMA about the status of the shipments still on hold at that time and to determine a course of action with regard to future shipments that may be imported into the United States from Brazil.

As of the end of February 2003, APHIS continues to hold 11 full shipments and 2 partial shipments, totaling 3,076.728 cubic meters of wood. The U.S. Government continues to communicate with Brazil seeking information about the legal status of the wood in these remaining shipments.

APHIS is planning, effective 1 April 2003, to refuse entry into the United States of any shipment of Brazilian bigleaf mahogany that has been on hold for 180 days or more, and for which IBAMA has not declared in writing to the United States Government that the accompanying Brazilian CITES export permit is valid and that the mahogany in the shipment was legally acquired.

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORTS**

CITES UPDATE: The USFWS produces a periodic news letter called the CITES Update, which provides the latest information relative to the CITES treaty. The USFWS distributes each edition of the CITES Update to a mailing list of over 700 CITES Cooperators from other U.S. Government agencies, State governments, NGOs, industry, academia, and the general public. It also posts each edition on its Website. During the period from March 2002 through February 2003, the USFWS produced, distributed, and posted two editions of its CITES Update.

USFWS PROMOTES CITES COMPLIANCE BY BIG GAME HUNTERS: USFWS outreach on CITES Law Enforcement and permit requirements to U.S. hunters who travel overseas to pursue their sport helped promote understanding of and compliance with CITES protections for a range of big game species. In March 2002 and again in January 2003, USFWS Law Enforcement and International Affairs representatives staffed an outreach booth at the Safari Club International's annual convention. Efforts focused on explaining U.S. and CITES requirements for importing and exporting big game trophies. In Anchorage, Alaska, USFWS wildlife inspectors presented outreach briefings to U.S. hunters who were flying to Russia to pursue bears and other big game species. Seizures of unlawfully imported trophies and wildlife souvenirs at that port of entry have dropped as

more hunters understand and obey CITES requirements and U.S. wildlife protection laws and regulations.

USFWS SPONSORS MEDICINAL WORKSHOP: USFWS International Affairs and Law Enforcement staff worked with the World Wildlife Fund, the Wildlife Conservation Society, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, and WildAid to organize and present a symposium on protecting medicinal plants and animals used in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM). Held in New York City on September 8, 2002, this “Consensus Conference” promoted open dialogue among conservationists and TCM educators and practitioners, many of whom are also involved in importing or selling products made from wildlife. Conference participants, who included faculty members from eight U.S. acupuncture schools as well as representatives from professional organizations, industry, non-profit conservation groups, and Federal and State agencies, worked together to identify seven action goals to promote conservation in oriental medicine. Efforts are already underway to develop a formal conservation curriculum for use in schools of acupuncture and secure the addition of questions addressing wildlife issues on the national certifying exam for practitioners. Other action goals include organizing a national cross-disciplinary meeting on conservation of TCM species and exploring global third party certification of herbs used in TCM.

TRAINERS TRAINED TO PROMOTE WILDLIFE TRADE EDUCATION: The USFWS sponsored a two-day “train the trainer” course for the “Suitcase for Survival” education program (a public/private wildlife trade outreach partnership) at the Denver Zoological Gardens in Denver, Colorado. The course taught educators and outreach specialists working at natural resource agencies, zoos, nature centers, and other organizations how to use the “Suitcase for Survival” curriculum and “hands on” wildlife products to teach the public about the devastating impact of the illegal wildlife trade. The USFWS supplies most of the wildlife items used in this educational effort. “Suitcase for Survival” is a cooperative outreach program involving USFWS Law Enforcement, the World Wildlife Fund, Traffic North America, the American Zoological and Aquarium Association, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

UNITED STATES WORKS WITH ITS TRADITIONAL MEDICINE COMMUNITY: Between March 2002 and February 2003, the USFWS continued to work with the U.S. traditional medicine community through the community’s pre-existing educational infrastructure. The USFWS continued to raise awareness about the use of endangered species in traditional medicines, in keeping with its commitment to community ownership of this issue.

U.S. CITES WEBSITE: The USFWS has continued to develop and improve its CITES Website at <http://international.fws.gov>. Among other items, the site contains the CITES treaty, CITES Fact Sheets, lists of CITES Party countries and non-Parties, a directory of Management and Scientific Authorities in Party countries and of equivalent authorities in non-Parties, copies of recent CITES Updates (see above), a COP12 page, and links to the CITES Secretariat’s Website. A new section devoted to permits is currently under construction. Two more sections, one on timber and one on ginseng, are in the early stages of development.

## **NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS**

INTERGOVERNMENTAL STURGEON QUOTAS: In accordance with CITES Decision 11.58, the United States submitted intergovernmental quotas for two Acipenseriformes species in December

2002. After consulting all 50 States to obtain information on current regulations and harvest/management schemes and contacting the Management Authority of Canada, catch and export quotas for 2003 were provided to the CITES Secretariat for white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) and green sturgeon (*A. medirostris*).

MICRA: In January 2003, representatives from the U.S. Scientific and Management Authorities participated in the annual Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association (MICRA) Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee meeting. MICRA is an organization of 28 State natural resources departments, several Federal agencies (including the USFWS) and Indian tribes dedicated to improving interjurisdictional river resource management in the Mississippi River basin. The MICRA Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee was established in 1992 to promote the conservation, management, and enhancement of paddlefish and sturgeon resources in the Mississippi River basin. Scientific and Management Authority personnel provided updates on international trade in native sturgeon and on the outcome of sturgeon discussions at COP12, including revisions to the caviar labeling resolution.

2003 GINSENG STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING: In February 2003, the USFWS hosted a two and a half day meeting with representatives of the States and other Federal agencies to discuss the status and management of American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) and the U.S. CITES export program for the species. The workshop provided an important opportunity for participants to air concerns and work cooperatively in developing recommendations to improve the management of wild ginseng populations.

U.S. CITES EXPORT TAGGING PROGRAM: The United States cooperates with its States and Indian Tribes and Nations in utilizing a tagging program for the exports of skins of the following Appendix-II species: bobcat (*Lynx rufus*); river otter (*Lontra canadensis*); Alaskan lynx (*Lynx canadensis*); Alaskan wolf (*Canis lupus*); Alaskan brown bear (*Ursus arctos*); and American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*). [Polar bear trophies are also tagged in limited numbers under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.] The USFWS initiated this program over twenty years ago to streamline the USFWS's CITES permit issuance process for the exports of skins of these species. The USFWS currently cooperates with 45 States and six Indian Tribes/Nations that have instituted approved harvest programs. The USFWS approves a State or Indian Tribe/Nation for inclusion in the CITES Export Tagging Program when it can make the two CITES findings based on that State's or Tribe/Nation's harvest program. Each approved State or Tribe/Nation applies CITES tags, provided by the USFWS, to all skins of approved species taken in that State or Tribe/Nation. The tags serve as evidence that the skins were legally taken and that their export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species. During 2002, the USFWS issued about 500,000 tags. Between March 2002 and February 2003, the USFWS approved into the program one additional Indian Nation for exports of bobcat and river otter, a second Indian Nation for exports of bobcat, and one State for the exports of river otter.

USFWS COOPERATES WITH THE STATES IN TAG STUDY: Funded by a USFWS grant, a study was contracted to and recently completed by Southwick Associates, Inc. to evaluate U.S. CITES tag performance, especially those used on American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) skins. This study was a collective effort between the International Association of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA), individual State wildlife agencies, and the USFWS. The purpose of the project was to identify additional potential CITES tag vendors who can produce acceptable tags

and to conduct a preliminary evaluation of the various security tags now on the market. Primary recommendations from the researcher are to: increase the contract from two years to three or more years (this may increase interest among other vendors to participate in the bidding process, and may possibly make it financially worthwhile for them to develop improved tags); and include bar coding to future tag specifications.

## **CONSERVATION FUNDING**

MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUNDS: The Multinational Species Conservation Funds consist of five programs created to fulfill direct congressional mandates to conserve populations of and habitats for neotropical migratory birds, African and Asian elephants, great apes, rhinoceroses, and tigers. Four of these programs involve CITES-listed species: the African Elephant Conservation Act of 1989, Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994, Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997, and the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000. These programs provide direct support to range countries through broad-based partnerships with national governments, NGOs, and other private entities for on-the-ground activities to conserve these species and their habitats.

The USFWS administers the Multinational Species Conservation Funds. During the period from March 2002 through February 2003, the USFWS granted a total of \$4,276,710 for various projects around the world in support of conservation of African and Asian elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers, and great apes. Listed below is a breakdown of this project funding by species group:

African elephants:	29 projects granted a total of \$1,775,796 in funding
Asian elephants:	18 projects granted a total of \$820,924 in funding
Tigers:	15 projects granted a total of \$395,825 in funding
Rhinoceroses:	18 projects granted a total of \$523,244 in funding
Great apes:	21 projects granted a total of \$760,921 in funding

## **OTHER U.S. CITES-RELATED ACTIVITIES**

U.S. SUBMITS ITS 2000-2001 CITES BIENNIAL REPORT: Article VIII of CITES prescribes that each Party shall prepare periodic reports on its implementation of CITES and shall transmit to the Secretariat, in addition to an annual report, a biennial report on legislative, regulatory, and administrative measures taken to enforce the provisions of CITES. On September 18, 2002, the USWFS submitted to the CITES Secretariat, the U.S. biennial report covering the interval 2000-2001. This report summarized some of the major legislative, regulatory, and administrative measures taken by the United States during this biennial period in its implementation of CITES.

U.S. SUBMITS ITS 2001 CITES ANNUAL REPORT: Article VIII of CITES prescribes that each Party shall prepare annual reports on its trade in CITES-listed species. On December 13, 2002, the USFWS submitted, directly to the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) in electronic format, the U.S. CITES Annual Report datafile for 2001. The file (100,269 data records) contained data on all U.S. trade with the rest of the world in CITES-listed species of fauna and flora during 2001. The data represent actual trade and not just numbers of CITES permits issued.

ARGENTINA PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF A SUMP: The Wild Bird Conservation Act of

1992 (WBCA) limits or prohibits import of exotic bird species into the United States in order to ensure that wild populations are not harmed by international trade. Since 1993, imports into the United States of all CITES-listed birds are prohibited except as provided under certain exemptions. One of the exemptions provided under the WBCA is for the import of species from countries that have approved sustainable use management plans (SUMPs) for those species. The USFWS is currently reviewing a petition submitted by the Management Authority of Argentina for approval of a SUMP for the blue-fronted amazon parrot (*Amazona aestiva*). In January 2003, two USFWS biologists traveled to Argentina to meet with the program directors and observe the program. Information gathered during the trip will assist in the review of Argentina's petition, and the USFWS anticipates making a decision regarding this program within the next several months.

WBCA COOPERATIVE BREEDING PROGRAMS: As noted above, imports into the United States of all CITES-listed birds are prohibited except as provided under certain exemptions. One of the exemptions provided under the WBCA is for the import of specimens to be used in an approved cooperative breeding program for the species. The purpose of cooperative breeding programs is to enhance or promote the conservation of the species in the wild or establish a self-sustaining population of the species in captivity in the United States. There are currently 24 approved cooperative breeding programs operating in the United States - primarily to breed species of raptors or psittacines. The USFWS has approved four new cooperative breeding programs in the last year.

FAO/CITES MoU: In February 2003, a fisheries biologist from the U.S. Scientific Authority attended the 25<sup>th</sup> FAO Committee of Fisheries (COFI) meeting and participated in a Working Group on the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CITES and FAO. Representatives from the U.S. Management and Scientific Authorities also participated in discussions on the establishment of an MoU at the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the FAO Sub-Committee on Fish Trade of the Committee of Fisheries in Bremen, Germany in February 2002.

RHINOCEROS AND TIGER CONSERVATION ACT: The U.S. Congress created the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act to assist in the conservation of rhinoceroses and tigers by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of nations whose activities directly or indirectly affect rhinos and tigers. Later amendments to the Act provided for the development and implementation of an educational outreach program and outlined the prohibitions relating to the sale of rhino and tiger parts in the United States. During 2002, the USFWS participated in two workshops on Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), that were attended by TCM students and practitioners. The USFWS presentations focused on the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act and the need to develop alternatives to the use of endangered species in TCM. In addition, the USFWS continues to review proposals and provide grants under the Act.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT: As part of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations in the United States, the USFWS is contributing to an interagency Environmental Assessment of wildlife trade and policy with various countries. The USFWS has completed summaries for Singapore, Chile, and Morocco, and is currently preparing reports for the Central American countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. These assessments summarize trade of CITES-listed species between those countries and the United States and provide an overview, for each particular country, of its wildlife legislation, including CITES implementation, trade enforcement, and other relevant wildlife activities and issues.

**REPORT OF CITES ACTIVITIES BY CANADA SINCE THE 46<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PRESENTATION TO THE 49<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE, APRIL 22-25, 2003, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

This report outlines the activities that have taken place in Canada from January 2002 to February 2003 to implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

**INTERNATIONAL EVENTS**

**46<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee, Geneva, Switzerland, March 12-15, 2002**

Canada was represented at the meeting by three delegates from the Canadian Wildlife Service, Jean R. Robillard, CITES Management Authority, Bertrand von Arx, CITES Scientific Authority and Yvan Lafleur, Enforcement Authority, and by two delegates from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Lauren Small, Environmental Relations Division and Alain Tellier, Permanent Mission in Geneva. More than 163 members representing some 63 countries participated in the Standing Committee (SC) meeting.

The agenda contained a number of noteworthy items including the workplan of the Secretariat and its financial reports; the establishment of a Technical Committee; trade in time-sensitive research samples; the national legislation project, the significant trade in specimens of Appendix II species and the review of the listing criteria.

**18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Animals Committee, April 8-12, 2002**

Canada was represented at the 18<sup>th</sup> Animals Committee Meeting by Mr. Bertrand von Arx, Canadian CITES Scientific Authority. The meeting was held in San José, Costa Rica. Activities included regular agenda items, significant trade issues and preparation of recommendations for COP 12.

**7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/United States Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management, April 23-25, 2002, Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico**

Canada sent representatives of its Management, Scientific and Enforcement Authorities to participate in the CITES Working Table and Law Enforcement Working Table. Revision of the Listing Criteria, repatriation of confiscated specimens, transborder movement of scientific research samples, national activities related to *Amazona oratrix* and *A. finschii*, *Ambystoma mexicanum*, *dermatemys mawii* and *Falco peregrinus*, and the status of several cacti species, were some of the subjects discussed at the CITES Table. The Law Enforcement Table discussed issues related to NAWEG policy and strategy and to a training exchange program.

**12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Plants Committee, May 13-17, 2002**

Canada was represented at the 12<sup>th</sup> Plants Committee Meeting by Mr. Bertrand von Arx, Canadian CITES Scientific Authority. The meeting was held in Leiden, Netherlands. Activities included regular

agenda items, significant trade issues and preparation of recommendations for COP 12.

### **CITES North American Regional Preparatory Meeting to the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties, October 2-4, 2002, Puebla, Mexico**

In preparation for the COP 12, Canada participated in the North American CITES Meeting sending a delegation headed by Lynda Maltby, Director, Species at Risk Branch, and representatives of its Management Authority, Scientific Authority and Enforcement Authority. Respective positions of each of the three Parties were discussed and Exchange of scientific information and information on respective laws, regulations and procedures assisted each of the three Parties in reaching positions on the more than 60 species proposals and proposals for resolutions.

### **12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties, November 3-15, 2002, Santiago, Chile**

The 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES took place from November 3-15, 2002, in Santiago, Chile. The 14 members Canadian delegation was headed by Karen Brown, Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Conservation Service, and Lynda Maltby, Director, Species at Risk Branch, as deputy head. The agenda for the meeting consisted of 61 proposals to either list, de-list or amend the Appendices listing animal and plant species, and of 65 proposals for resolutions providing further interpretation of the Convention.

One of the more controversial issues for review by the Parties involved a proposal by the Secretariat to increase Parties' contribution by 12%. Canada played a lead role in obtaining agreement from the Parties on a 6% increase in contributions. Other controversial issues included a review of the committee structure of the Convention, trade in time-sensitive biological samples, and the listings of African elephant, minke and Bryde's whales, basking and whale sharks, the Patagonian toothfish and the bigleaf mahogany.

Canada actively promoted its CITES Identification Manuals and the interactive course on CD-ROM prepared by the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency in collaboration with Environment Canada. More than 75 countries and NGOs attended 3 presentations (English, French and Spanish). Many expressed interest in acquiring the manuals or participating in the production of other tools. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Enforcement Branch and the CITES Secretariat to adapt the course for an international audience.

Richard Charette of our Enforcement Division received the Clark R. Bavin Award for his outstanding achievements in providing enforcement tools (CITES Identification Guides) to Customs and Wildlife Enforcement Officers worldwide.

## **NATIONAL EVENTS**

### **Public Consultations Meeting in preparation for CITES COP 12, September 24-25, 2002, Hull, Quebec, Canada**

As part of its public consultation process and following a *Notice of Public Consultation and Call for Proposals for the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties* sent to the public on October 19, 2001, Canada held a two day meeting chaired by Lynda Maltby, Director, Species at Risk Branch, on

September 24-25, 2002, to receive comments from Canadian Environmental Non-governmental Organizations and the interested public. Comments received at these public consultations meetings assist the Canadian delegation in arriving at tentative positions for COPs.

## **NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM:**

### **MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

#### **CITES Annual Reports**

Canada submitted its Annual Reports for 1998 in January 2002 and for 1999 in February 1, 2003. Canada is working towards the elimination of its back-log in computerizing permits and expects being able to submit yearly annual reports by October 31 of each year starting with the 2002 report.

#### **Automation of the issuance of CITES export permits**

Canada started to implement in phases the automation of its CITES permit issuance. In phase one, CITES Import Permits started to be computer-generated in August 2001. In November 2002, the Canadian CITES Management Authority's Office in Head-Quarters started to computer-generate its CITES Export Permits. CITES certificates will be automated in spring 2003.

### **SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITY**

In the period between SC46 and the coming SC49, the Office of the Scientific Authority was mainly busy with the preparation of COP12 both at the national level (public consultations) and by preparing Canada's position on the species proposals and many of the working documents.

Other activities include the survey of all Canadian CITES listed taxa down to population level and linkage to other available information on status, biology and distribution. This information is made available through the CITES-Canada Website. The data is organized into a new database which allows for a more complete listing of Appendix species including more synonyms and details about higher taxa. Other new features such as a search engine have also been built into the Website ([http://www.cites.ec.gc.ca/fra/sct5/preq\\_f.cfm](http://www.cites.ec.gc.ca/fra/sct5/preq_f.cfm)).

The Scientific Authority has also worked on improving the knowledge in trade patterns and biological status of several Canadian CITES-listed species such as *Panax quinquefolius*, *Hydrastis canadensis*, *Opuntia* spp., *Ursus arctos*, etc. Working proactively, contacts have been initiated with the users of *Taxus canadensis* and a preliminary study was also completed on the Canadian *Taxus* spp.

Significant efforts were put towards making Non Detriment Findings (NDF) at the species level for Canadian species. The format for making NDF Checklists presented at the Eleventh Conference of the Parties (COP11-Inf.3) was used and adapted. Several species were scrutinized, including Ginseng, Goldenseal, Grizzly Bear. A list of high priority species will soon be established based on a combination of factors such as threat assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and level of actual trade in wild specimens.

The fate of the Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*), especially the population from British Columbia (BC) was

analyzed very carefully following a NGO campaign claiming that the population was at the brink of extinction. The NGO questioned the accuracy of our NDF and the European Union's own Scientific Review Group (SRG) temporarily proclaimed a ban on import of Grizzly Bear trophies legally exported from BC. The Federal CITES Scientific Authority (SA) in close collaboration with the Provincial CITES SA and Large Mammal Experts finalized a Non Detriment Finding showing that although the population could do better, it is not Endangered at this moment. The COSEWIC also reassessed the species in May 2002 and ranked it again at the "Special Concern" level with no changes. The "Special Concern" ranking comes below Endangered and Threatened and means that *a species has characteristics that make it particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events*. We also expect the imminent release - by an independent Panel of experts in bears - of an overall assessment of the situation of the Grizzly Bear in BC. Depending of the findings of the Panel, the SA will reevaluate its own NDF.

Eventually many other activities including the annual re-evaluation of the registered captive breeding operations of Appendix I species or the Sturgeon Significant Trade file entertain daily the staff of the Scientific Authority.

### **CITES-Canada Web Site**

The Canadian Scientific Authority in collaboration with the Management and Enforcement Authorities designs and reviews the contents of the Canadian CITES Website ([www.cites.ca](http://www.cites.ca)). The new Website is designed to assist the public in obtaining all pertinent information on CITES. Extensive information is provided on how CITES is implemented in Canada, on permit requirements to import and export CITES specimens and where to apply for permits. Permit application forms will be available from the Website in the near future.

### **ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY**

#### **Enforcement Branch Web Site**

The Canadian Wildlife Service Enforcement Branch designs and reviews the contents of the Enforcement Site. The new Website is designed to assist the public in obtaining all information on CITES enforcement activities. You can find this web site at:  
[http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/enforce/index\\_e.cfm](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/enforce/index_e.cfm).

Another website *Import and Export under CITES* was designed by the Enforcement Branch to help importers and exporters to comply with regulations.

#### **Identification Guides**

In November 2002, the Enforcement Branch Inspections and Training Division completed the CITES Identification Guide - Tropical Woods. This guide was published by Environment Canada with the cooperation of the CITES Secretariat, the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and plant Health Inspection Service and the U.S. Forest Service. It is designed in particular to help staff responsible for enforcing CITES to do their work more quickly and efficiently. The use of the guide requires no advanced level of training or previous knowledge of biology. It uses a simple visual approach, which facilitates the identification process. The guide has been distributed to all CITES Management Authorities.

The CITES Identification Guide - Butterflies has been translated to Chinese with the collaboration of TRAFFIC.

Other guides in the same series were previously published, Birds (1994), Crocodylians (1995), Turtles and Tortoises (1999), Butterflies (2000) and Sturgeons and Paddlefish (2001).

All guides are now available in electronic format at the following address:  
[http://www.cites.ec.gc.ca/eng/sct5/sct5\\_1\\_e.cfm](http://www.cites.ec.gc.ca/eng/sct5/sct5_1_e.cfm).

### **CITES Enforcement Training**

Two courses were produced and given to groups of Environment Canada wildlife officers: “The identification and handling of reptiles and emergency procedures” and “An introduction to the Identification of Orchids in trade.”

A course on WAPPRIITA, the Canadian CITES-enabling legislation, was given to Environment Canada wildlife officers and a group of Customs Investigators.

The CITES interactive course on CD-ROM prepared by the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency in collaboration with Environment Canada will soon be available in its international version on the CITES Secretariat web site as well as CD versions.

### **Enforcement – Significant Investigations**

#### *Bearnet*

A series of search warrants, executed simultaneously on November 20, 2002, resulted in the seizure of more than 260 black bear gall bladders and an arrest for possession of a prohibited firearm. Environment Canada Wildlife Enforcement Officers, the Quebec and Ontario Provincial Conservation officers, the RCMP and the Toronto Police Service, executed 60 search warrants in businesses and private dwellings in Quebec and Ontario. All individuals are suspected of being involved in a large bear gall bladder trafficking network with possible links in Quebec, Ontario, the United States of America and Asia.

Environment Canada received information from United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Intelligence about the sale of bear gall bladders via the Internet. This information led to an extensive investigation that uncovered a large network of trade and traffic in gall bladders and other wildlife.

Bear gall bladders are sought after for use in traditional Asian medicine. The foreign black market value of bear gall bladders can range from \$2000 to \$10,000 each. Canada is the largest remaining habitat of the black bear and the illegal trade in bear parts is increasing and creating significant pressure on the population of this species. Charges have been laid against some of the individuals and the investigation is still on-going.

### **Interpol-CITES Working Group**

Canada is the Chair for the INTERPOL-CITES working group. Continued operation of the INTERPOL

Wildlife Working Group (IWWG) was put at risk in 2002 when Interpol international priorities related to the US Nine Eleven tragedy, saw the possible removal of the INTERPOL CITES component. The INTERPOL Wildlife Working Group, headed by the Canadian Chair, put forward a strategic work-plan which was accepted by INTERPOL. The IWWG continues to provide an important role to CITES member countries.

### **EUROPOL-CITES Working Group**

EUROPOL Officials are working with Canadian officials, of which the Canadian Wildlife Service is an active participant, to establish a network of information sharing similar to that which is in place with INTERPOL.

### **Intelligence Division**

In 2001 and 2002, the Intelligence Division of the CWS responded to various member country requests, supplying strategic and tactical intelligence reports on issues common to both Canada and the requesting CITES member country. A year long intelligence project on legal and illegal trade in caviar will be concluded within the next couple of months detailing the overall risk to Canada and its trading countries. The report will identify areas for priority enforcement action and give a snapshot in time of the global problem and risks.

## INFORME DE ACTIVIDADES QUE MÉXICO DESARROLLÓ EN EL PERIODO COMPRENDIDO DE FEBRERO DE 2002 A FEBRERO DE 2003

Como parte de los compromisos atendidos por las Autoridades Administrativa y Científica CITES de México se encuentra la participación en las distintas reuniones, que se dan en el marco de esta Convención, como son la Reunión del Comité Permanente, la Reunión del Comité de Fauna y la Reunión del Comité de Plantas, independientemente de las reuniones en las que participa u organiza como parte de la Región de Norteamérica, en este sentido durante el periodo se participó en las siguientes reuniones:

- 46ª Reunión del Comité Permanente en Ginebra, Suiza, del 12 al 15 de marzo de 2002.
- 18ª Reunión del Comité de Fauna en San José, Costa Rica, del 8 al 12 de abril de 2002.
- Reunión de Autoridades Científicas CITES de Norteamérica en Nuevo Vallarta, Nayarit, México, el 21 de abril de 2002.
- Mesa CITES de la VII Reunión del Comité Trilateral en Nuevo Vallarta, Nayarit, México, del 23 al 26 de abril de 2002.
- 12ª Reunión del Comité de Flora en Leiden, Países Bajos, del 13 al 17 de mayo de 2002.
- Segunda Reunión de Diálogo de los Estados del Área de Distribución de la Tortuga Carey (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) en el Gran Caribe, en Islas Caimán, del 21 al 23 de mayo de 2002.
- Taller para Autoridades Científicas CITES en Managua, Nicaragua, del 16 al 19 de septiembre de 2002.
- Reunión Preparatoria del Comité Técnico CITES de la CCAD para la 12ª Conferencia de las Partes, en San José, Costa Rica, del 25 al 26 de septiembre de 2002.
- Se realizó la Reunión Preparatoria de la Región de Norteamérica previa a la 12ª Reunión de la Conferencia de las Partes, en Puebla, México, del 2 al 4 de octubre de 2002.
- 47ª Reunión del Comité Permanente en Santiago de Chile del 1 al 2 de noviembre de 2002.
- 12ª Reunión de la Conferencia de las Partes en Santiago de Chile, del 3 al 15 de noviembre de 2002.

Por otra parte se describen a continuación las siguientes actividades:

- En el marco del Comité de Flora, se concluyó el estudio sobre conocimiento biológico y estatus poblacional de las especies de cactáceas endémicas y amenazadas: *Mammillaria pectinifera* y *M. solisoides*; asimismo se está gestionando con la CONABIO el financiamiento para llevar a cabo, un estudio similar para otras dos o tres especies de cactáceas, por conducto de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

- Se conformó un grupo de trabajo en materia de Guayacán que supervisará los trabajos de un estudio sobre la situación actual de las poblaciones del género *Guaiacum* en México, el cual se situó en el Apéndice II en la pasada 12ª Conferencia de las Partes.
- Se presentó el trabajo desarrollado por la Autoridad Científica Mexicana, con relación a la documentación del comercio de cactáceas vía Internet. La base de datos generada fue entregada a las Autoridades Administrativas de México, Canadá y Estados Unidos.
- Se mantienen pláticas con la Comisión de Cooperación Ambiental de Norteamérica (CCA), para que dentro del marco de su Programa de Especies de Interés Común para la Conservación, se puedan financiar estudios de especies CITES.
- Con base en los Fundamentos Jurídicos de la Participación Social, se realizó un Foro de Información y Consulta acerca de las propuestas de enmienda a los Apéndices para la 12ª Reunión de la Conferencia de las Partes de la CITES (22 de octubre de 2002), obteniendo resultados particularmente favorables en términos de la coincidencia de planteamientos y discusión de diferencias.
- A solicitud de algunos Países Parte, México envió información referente a caballitos de mar (familia Signatidae), Guayacán (*Guaiacum sanctum*), loro nuca amarilla (*Amazona auropalliata*) y de algunas especies de cactáceas. Lo anterior con el objeto de apoyar la elaboración de propuestas de enmienda a los Apéndices de la CITES, así como a los documentos de trabajo que fueron sometidos durante la 12ª Reunión de la Conferencia de las Partes.
- México presentó la propuesta para transferir la especie *Amazona oratrix* del Apéndice II al I, que, Durante la 12ª Reunión de la Conferencia de las Partes, fue aprobada por consenso.
- En lo concerniente a la expedición de Certificados CITES de Importación y Exportación, durante el período se otorgaron 3,169 Certificados de Importación, Exportación y Reexportación.
- Otro de los aspectos contemplados dentro de las disposiciones CITES es el seguimiento de las actividades de los llamados “Centros de Rescate” (Centros para la Conservación e Investigación de la Vida Silvestre), en este sentido México obtuvo los resultados que se indican en el **anexo I**.
- México realizará la traducción al español de la guía de identificación de cactáceas incluidas en el Apéndice I, elaborada por las autoridades suizas.
- En la pasada 12ª Conferencia de las Partes el Dr. Rodrigo Medellín Legorreta, miembro de la Autoridad Científica Mexicana, fue designado Vicepresidente del Comité de Fauna.
- Con el objeto de obtener información actualizada sobre el impacto del comercio, la biología, distribución y abundancia de las especies mexicanas de interés dentro de la CITES y de evaluar la conveniencia de incluir, mantener o modificar su estatus dentro de los Apéndices, la Autoridad Científica, continua el proceso de elaboración de estudios sobre las siguientes especies:
  - *Ambystoma mexicanum*

- *Amazona finschi*
- *Amazona oratrix*
- *Dermatemys mawii*
- *Crocodylus moreletii*

En lo que se refiere a aplicación de la ley en este período la Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente verificó el cumplimiento de la CITES en mas de 4000 embarques de especímenes y productos de especies de flora y fauna silvestres incluidas en los Apéndices I y II. Derivado de lo anterior, se aseguraron y en algunos casos decomisaron, aquellos que no cumplieron con las disposiciones legales en esta materia.

Por otro lado, durante el mes de agosto se llevó a cabo por cuarto año consecutivo la exposición “La Vida Silvestre y su Protección Legal” en el Aeropuerto Internacional de la Ciudad de México. En esta muestra se presentan ejemplares, productos y subproductos que han sido decomisados por la PROFEPA, con el objetivo de dar a conocer la normatividad que regula, a nivel nacional e internacional, el comercio y el aprovechamiento de la vida silvestre. Adicionalmente, en junio, se montó la exposición “Naturaleza Frágil: Los animales Silvestres” en el museo Universum, de la Univesidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

## ANEXO I

### INFORME ESTADISTICO DEL MANEJO DE EJEMPLARES DE FAUNA SILVESTRE PRODUCTO DE ASEGURAMIENTOS Y ENTREGAS VOLUNTARIAS ALBERGADOS EN LOS CENTROS PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN E INVESTIGACIÓN DE LA VIDA SILVESTRE (CECIVS)

PERIODO FEBRERO 2002-FEBRERO 2003

CENTRO	CLASE	E.A	A	L	C	B	EN REHABILITACIÓN
LOS REYES	MAMIFEROS	21	3	8	0	0	16
	AVES	113	0	7	0	11	95
	REPTILES	37	27	0	0	0	64
	ARACHNIDA	0	13	10	0	3	0
	SUBTOTAL	171	43	25	0	14	175
GUADALAJARA	MAMIFEROS	19	5	17	1	2	4
	AVES	56	4	7	8	3	42
	REPTILES	30	29	0	1	10	48
	SUBTOTAL	105	38	24	10	15	94
EL ARCA	MAMIFEROS	3	0	0	0	0	3
	AVES	23	0	0	0	0	23
	REPTILES	2	0	0	0	0	2
	SUBTOTAL	28	0	0	0	0	28
TEKAX	MAMIFEROS	74	3	3	2	3	69
	AVES	27	0	0	0	0	27
	REPTILES	3	0	0	0	1	2
	SUBTOTAL	104	3	3	2	4	98
	TOTAL	408	84	52	12	33	395

E. A. = EXISTENCIA ANTERIOR

A.= ALTAS

B.= BAJAS

C. = EJEMPLARES CANALIZADOS

L.= EJEMPLARES LIBERADOS